and excused by him; if so, when and what was the nature of the defalcation and the amount;

(g) whether the Comptroller of Accounts took any action regarding same; if so, what was the action taken?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The matter is *sub judice*, and no information can be furnished at this stage.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Is every item of the question *sub judice*? There are different sections to the question. Are all these *sub judice*?

President.—The point is, if any matter is *sub judice*, no question can be asked in respect of that matter.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—'When were the accounts of the office inspected by the audit department last?' How can that be *sub judice*? That has no connection with the defalcation.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I would give the information now. That particular branch of the office was never included in the local audit programme at all. It never used to be audited.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Why was it not audited?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—There are several offices which are not thought necessary to be audited. It is one of those.

Cochinites in British Indian Service and Colleges.

54. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) whether they are aware that Cochinites are not entertained in the Government Department in the Madras Presidency for the sole reason of their Cochin domicile;

(2) is the Government aware that in the printed application forms for appointments there is a column for entering the domicile;

(3) is the Government aware that admission in the Madras Government Colleges is refused to Cochinites because of their nativity;

(4) what action does Government intend to take to remove the said disability;

(5) (a) was there a Government Circular issued during the time of the late Diwan that only Cochinites will be entertained in Cochin service;

(b) was the said Rule or Circular ever cancelled;

(c) have there been appointments in Cochin service to posts carrying Rs. 50 and above of British Malabar subjects since the promulgation of the said Circular; if so, their names; were not equally qualified and competent Cochinites available for appointments to these posts?

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Rama Varmha Tampuran.—(1) So far as the Government know there is no rule in existence which absolutely debars their appointment to the said service, solely because of the domicile.

(2) Yes.

(3) Government have no information.

Vide also answer to question No. 300 of the last Budget Session.

(4) No answer is required in view of answer to 3.

(5) (a) There was an order limiting appointments to Cochinites.

(b) No.

(c) So far as could be ascertained the following two British Malabar subjects were entertained in the absence of equally qualified and competent Cochinites:—

(1) Mr. Fernandez, Senior Reserve Sub-Inspector.

and (2) Mr. K. Karunakaran Nayar, Zoology Professor, Maharaja's College.

Mr. T.A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—'So far as the Government know there is no rule in existence'. May I know whether there was any circular to this effect? The first part of the question is: 'Whether they are aware that Cochinites are not entertained in the Government Department in the Madras Presidency for the sole reason of their Cochin domicile'.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Government are not aware of any circular at all.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—There are also many being appointed, Sir.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Then (3). The answer is 'Government have no information'. Have they received any complaints from the students that they are not admitted in the College?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—That point was explained by me some time ago. The fact of the matter is they are not refused admission because of their nativity but because there is no accommodation in these technical colleges. The Director of Public Instruction assured me that he was refusing British candidates as much as Cochin candidates. The number has increased. The accommodation available is not the same as in the old days and he asked me whether I was sure that Cochinites were not admitted in the Engineering College this year, and then I had not heard of any. I came back and inquired and found that they were admitted this year. Now in the Engineering College there are 10 Cochin students.

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Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Are they aware that a notice is put up in the Medical College that students from the Native States will not be admitted there?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—No. The Government are not aware of any such notice being put up.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—What was the order limiting the appointments to Cochinites? May I know what was that order?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—There was a general circular issued to all the Heads of Departments and offices asking them that, wherever Cochinites are available for any substantive appointment, they should be given preference and they should be appointed.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Is it because no Cochinites were available that these two, Fernandez and Karunakaran Nayar, were appointed?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—No Cochinites suitable to serve the places were available and, therefore, these two appointments were made.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Were there applications for this post from Cochinites?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—There must have been applications.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Had they educational qualifications?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Educational qualifications, that is a very wide term. So far as the post is concerned, so far as the necessary qualifications for the post were concerned, it was decidedly found that no Cochinite was available and that is the reason why these two were appointed.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—What was the special qualifications of the Sub-Inspector, Mr. Fernandez?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I want notice.

President.—We can give you specific information.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—What were the circumstances?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—I cannot give exactly the circumstances under which he was appointed.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I don't remember all the details.

President.—As for Karunakaran Nayar, I can give you the information. The Director of Public Instruction knows fully well that Mr. Gopala Ayyar went back to British service and we wanted a specialist for the post and Diwan Bahadur Ramunni Menon, Vice-Chancellor, recommended Mr. Karunakaran Nayar

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as the most suitable candidate for the post. He was at that time serving as Professor in the Central College, Bangalore and we obtained his services on certain terms, and we could not find any Cochinite available for the post.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Was this Fernandez a Ticket Collector in the Railway Department ? (*Laughter.*)

President.—I met him in connection with some Railway, and he belonged to the Railway Police.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—I think he had some connection with the Railway. Personally I don't know. In fact his choice has been made during Mr. Brown's time. He was chosen by Mr. Brown. That was my information. All the circumstances I cannot explain now.

Nelluvayi—Thalasseri Road.

55. Mr. V. V. Anantapadmanabha Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether the Chief Engineer has made a local inspection for fixing the alignment of the Nelluvayi—Thalasseri road, as promised by him in Council during the Budget Session;

(b) if so, what is the result of the investigation;

(c) whether in view of the urgency of opening this road the construction work could not be started this year after survey and land acquisition?

Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar.—(a) Yes.

(b) The report embodying the result of the inspection is under preparation.

(c) Every effort will be made to start the work this year.

Mr. V. V. Anantapadmanabha Ayyar.—May I know whether the Chief Engineer inspected both the alignments proposed by the officer ?

Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar.—I inspected the Srikrishnapuram and Thalasseri. I was not able to inspect the Arangottukara-Nelluvaya alignment. I had not time that day. I hoped to do that on a subsequent day.

Mr. V. V. Anantapadmanabha Ayyar.—May I know whether the construction of the road connecting Nelluvaya-Thalasseri with Trichur was one of the roads proposed by the Road Committee ?

Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar.—I want notice.

Mr. V. V. Anantapadmanabha Ayyar.—Was it a matter contemplated by the Government in the alignment of that road?

Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar.—There have been petitions and the matter has been under consideration for a long time.

Mr. V. V. Anantapadmanabha Ayyar.—May I know whether the Hon'ble Member has the files before him?

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